

To: Mental Health and Disability Services Study Committee

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

Senator Jack Hatch, Co-chairperson	Representative Renee Schulte, Co-chairperson
Senator Joe Bolkcom	Representative David E. Heaton
Senator Joni Ernst	Representative Lisa Heddens
Senator David Johnson	Representative Linda J. Miller
Senator Amanda Ragan	Representative Mark D. Smith
Senator Pat Ward	Representative Mary Wolfe

From: AMOS Mental Health and Addictions Issue Team

Date: Dec. 19, 2011

Subject: Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign

We in the AMOS Mental Health and Addictions Issue Team want the Interim Study Committee to know that we strongly support the recommendations of the *Iowa Mental Health Planning Council* as approved November 16, 2011.

We wish to stress that adequate funding, the integration of primary care, mental health and addiction services, and an immediate focus on workforce issues and treatment beds are essential to the redesign.

We urge that the committee not overlook the importance of the items listed under “Missing Pieces....”

Additionally, we wish to compliment the efforts of the workgroups and we support their recommendations and the priorities they established for the redesign. We are encouraged by the widespread recognition of the issues and the steps needed to correct the deficiencies.

As you also have recognized, redesign of the mental health system in Iowa is long overdue and we depend on you to make serious strides toward giving this state a system worthy of the pride we take in our government. We recognize that the task is not easy, nor will it be achieved overnight.

We also hope you take comfort knowing that you have the support of stakeholders in the system, from consumers and family members to providers. We believe that everyone in our state is touched in some way by the health issues that have been the focus of the workgroups and the prospective legislation.

Our member organizations place paramount importance on equity and compassion in our systems of care and we look to you to create legislation that will reflect the values that we all share.

Again, we want you to know that you have our support in this monumental task.